

Superfund Division

TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

VARIOUS REMOVAL/REMEDIAL ISSUES

Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Site: Interim Work Plans (IWPs) are being finalized by Atlantic Richfield Inc. so that they can conduct preliminary field assessments to site equipment or to support the development of future Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan. The IWPs are intended to support preliminary field work assessments or field work to better assess site conditions. The IWPs include the following documents: Meteorological System Work Plan; Air Monitoring Work Plan; Monitoring Well Inspection Work Plan; Visual Site Inspection Work Plan; UAV Survey Work Plan. The field work activities associated with the work plans are expected to take place in summer 2018. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

Quapaw Tribe – Tar Creek: The EPA continues to work closely with the Quapaw Tribe Environmental Office (QTEO) and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) in implementing the remedial actions for the Tar Creek Superfund Site (Site) for Operable Units 2 (OU 2, Residential Areas) and 4 (Chat Piles and Other Mining Wastes). Since the awarding of a Remedial Action Cooperative Agreement (CA) in FY2012 for the Catholic 40, the first-ever CA in the nation where a Tribe performed a Superfund remedial action on property that they own, the EPA has continued to award the QTEO CAs for remedial actions at Beaver Creek North (CP060), Distal 7 North (Drainage Feature), Distal 10/12, and Distal 13. CAs with the QTEO for OU 4 remedial actions for “marketable chat,” Chat Base 199, Distal 10b, and the Bird Dog chat base, including other areas of the Site, are being discussed.

A Bench-Scale Study on the use of soil amendments, led by the EPA’s Environmental Response Team, was recently completed at the Catholic 40 (Quapaw tribal trust land). The purpose of the study was to determine if soil amendments can reduce the bioavailability of cadmium, lead, and zinc. The successful use of soil amendments could reduce the amount of transition zone soils (i.e., native soils underneath chat piles/bases) which would otherwise be excavated and taken to a repository for final disposal. The QTEO, with technical assistance from the EPA, is implementing long-term performance measures at the Catholic 40 and Distal 13 to determine the effectiveness of the soil amendments in meeting the remedial action objectives specified in the 2008 Record of Decision for OU 4. The EPA, QTEO, and the ODEQ are discussing additional options for reducing the amount of soils that are excavated from the Site and disposed at the central repository. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

Tar Creek OU5 (Surface Water and Sediments): EPA is working with tribes, states, and other federal agencies to plan, report and review the risk assessment. Based on comments received and conference call discussion, the revised Risk Assessment Guidance Part D tables and a summary technical memorandum describing the tribal lifeways scenarios that will be evaluated in the risk assessment was provided for review and comment on May 11, 2018. The first set of draft tables were provided in November 2017 and subsequently updated to incorporate initial comments.

Updated tables were presented and discussed during the March 28, 2018, stakeholder meeting. The next step in the process will be to incorporate any additional comments and update the tables for inclusion in the OU5 human health risk assessment. These tables, combined with the data from the 2017 field event, will be used to complete a draft human health risk assessment for OU5. Once the draft is complete, it will be submitted to the stakeholder group for review and comment. The EPA will continue to coordinate with the tribes interested in the Tar Creek Site through periodic meetings and conference calls. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

Wilcox Oil Company: On April 16, 2018, EPA and ODEQ met with the Sac and Fox Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and Cherokee Nation to discuss the draft Source Control Proposed Plan. During the meeting the proposed source actions and focus were described while questions related to process and future activities were answered. The EPA continues to develop the draft Source Control Proposed Plan and expects to release the draft for public review in June 2018. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

Oklahoma Refining Company: In July 2018, the EPA and ODEQ are planning to meet with the Mayor of Cyril and the ITEC to provide an update on the status of the remedial activities being performed at the Oklahoma Refining Company Superfund Site located in Cyril, Oklahoma. EPA and ODEQ plan to discuss the current status of the Remedial Design associated with Operable Unit 2 (North Side) as well as recent surface water and ground water sampling results associated with Operable Unit 3. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

New Mexico Abandoned Uranium Mines – Five Year Plan: The Grants Mining District Five-Year Plan partners held a conference call on May 31, 2018. Participants included the Pueblo of Acoma and Pueblo of Laguna. The included a presentation on the San Mateo Creek Basin NPL proposal EPA is considering, and an overview of the US Department of Energy's Defense Related Uranium Mines inventory project.

Investigations into the impacts on groundwater from legacy uranium mining and milling are continuing. The Phase 2 Ground Water Investigation report will be released in August 2018. EPA will schedule community meetings once the report is released to provide a summary of the findings and answer questions.

The Ambrosia Lake non-time critical removal assessments are also continuing. Field work in the western and eastern areas of Ambrosia Lake has been completed and the central area should be completed in 2018. The data is being utilized to prepare Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Reports for these areas. This work is being funded by proceeds from the Tronox Settlement. To support assessment work of the Section 32/33 mines in the far northwest region of Ambrosia Lake, as a joint project with Region 9, ASPECT will fly the mine sites on or about June 19, 2018, as part of a larger flight mission that includes the UNC NPL Site, Evelyn Mine northeast of Pruitt, NM, and portions of the Navajo Nation.

Coordination meetings are held on a regular basis with Region 6, Region 9, Navajo Nation, New Mexico Environmental Department, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department to discuss priorities for current and future removal work in the legacy uranium mines under the Tronox settlement. The next meeting is scheduled for September

2018 in New Mexico. *Ben Banipal, 214-665-7324, John Meyer 214-665-6742, Ronnie Crossland, 214-665-2721*

San Mateo Creek Basin National Priorities List Proposal – Tribal Consultation: EPA is currently evaluating the San Mateo Creek Basin Uranium Legacy Site for potential National Priorities List proposal. On February 14, 2018, a tribal consultation meeting was held with the Navajo Nation. On February 27, tribal consultation meetings were held with the Pueblo of Acoma and the Pueblo of Laguna. The purpose of the meetings was to provide information to the tribal leadership about the listing, to solicit input, and also to request a letter of support for the NPL proposal. A follow-up meeting with Acoma Pueblo and council was held on May 8. The EPA anticipates proposing the San Mateo Creek Basin Uranium Legacy site to the National Priorities List in the fall of 2018. *Ben Banipal, 214-665-7324*

BROWNFIELDS

128a Tribal Response Program Updates:

- Region 6 is in the process of awarding **FY18 Response Program funding** to six 128a Tribal Response Programs, including the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council, Eight Northern Indian Pueblo Council, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Choctaw Nation and the Muscogee-Creek Nation. Awards will be finalized prior to September 30. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*
- Region 6, in partnership with Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields (Tribal TAB) has launched the **R6 Tribal Response Program Workgroup** (aka TRP Workgroup). The purpose of the workgroup is to explore tribal-specific topics to help enhance Region 6 128a Tribal Response Programs. The first meeting, held April 12, focused on demonstrating the value of Tribal Response Programs beyond the statutory-required four elements. The next meeting will be held in July in the Tulsa area.
- The **Tribal Environmental Lands Forum** will be held August 13-16, 2018 at the Spokane Convention Center in Spokane, Washington. This year's conference theme is "A National Conversation on Tribal Land and Water Resources." Topics highlighted at the forum include solid/hazardous waste management, brownfields, UST/LUSTs, Superfund sites and emergency response. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*
- The **Oklahoma Brownfields Conference** will be held in Oklahoma City from September 26 - 28, 2018. For more information, including registration and hotel information, contact Alisha.grayson@deq.ok.gov or 405-702-5113. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma:

The Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma was selected to receive Brownfields Cleanup grant funding in the FY 2017 Brownfields grant competition. EPA Region 6 awarded the \$200,000 Brownfields Cleanup grant to Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma to clean up the asbestos and lead-based paint in the heritage Kickapoo gymnasium. The effective date of the grant was October 1, 2017. The Phase II environmental site assessment to sample exterior paint for lead content and the roof for

the presence of asbestos containing materials on the Kickapoo Gymnasium Negotiations on costs for Phase II ESA with assigned contractor will be completed in June 2018. Final work plan/cost estimates will be finalized in July 2018. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

TARGETED BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Santa Clara Pueblo: Region 6 held conference call with Santa Clara Pueblo in March 2018 to review completed Phase I ESA on Bridge Radiator Shop, Espanola, NM in March 2018. Phase I ESA report recommended a Phase II ESA be undertaken on Bridge Radiator Shop. Santa Clara Pueblo requested that Region 6 undertake Phase II ESA. Region 6 in turn requested that Santa Clara Pueblo provide a new TBA property access agreement – completed, signed and dated for 2018 during conference call. Santa Clara Pueblo agreed to provide new TBA access agreement. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

Cochiti Pueblo: In January 2018, Kansas State University (KSU) Technical Assistance to Tribal Brownfields met with Cochiti Pueblo to continue discussions about potential reuses on the closed Cochiti Gravel Mine. The Phase III Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) (cleanup/stabilization plan) for the closed Cochiti Gravel Mine was assigned to a contractor in May 2018. Final work plan/cost estimate for Phase III ESA will be finalized in June 2018. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

Acoma Pueblo: The Phase II ESA for the closed U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration building in Acomita Village was assigned to a contractor in May 2018, to complete survey of hazardous substances in building. Negotiations on costs for Phase II ESA with assigned contractor will be completed in June 2018. Final work plan/cost estimates will be finalized in July 2018. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

In January 2018, the University of New Mexico Architecture School met with Acoma Pueblo to discuss reuse planning assistance for the Acomita School and a closed gas station/convenience store. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

Laguna Pueblo: NMED award work assignment to contractor to complete a limited Phase II ESA to sample monitoring wells, an abandoned drinking water well and indoor air. Region 6 offered to undertake follow-up Phase II ESA to provide supplemental data with regard to environmental issues if NMED completed Phase II ESA confirms presence of contamination. Region 6 requested that Laguna Pueblo completed, sign and date TBA access agreement to initiate process to award follow-up Phase II ESA. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

SUPERFUND TRIBAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

Tar Creek Superfund Site Operable Unit (OU) 4:

- **Elm Creek Distal Zone Chat Base 199:** EPA and the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma are negotiating a work plan and budget for the Elm Creek Distal Zone, Chat Base 199. The Tribe requested \$2,563,308 for continuing remediation and restoration of Chat Base 199. The period of performance would be from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2022. To date,

\$12,096,449 has been awarded to the Tribe toward this effort. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

- **Marketable Chat Piles CP073, CP077, and CB076:** EPA and the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma are negotiating a work plan and budget to fund the removal of marketable chat piles CP073 and CP077, and chat base CBO76. The Tribe requested \$5,841,667 to conduct the remediation. The remedial action will include the hauling of marketable chat to a processor. Removal of the marketable chat will simplify the remediation of the remaining chat source material and subsequent restoration efforts. The period of performance would be from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2022. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*
- **Elm Creek Distal Zone 10 and 12:** EPA and the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma are negotiating a revised work plan and budget to continue the remediation and restoration of Elm Creek Distal Zones 10 and 12. The Tribe requested \$1,319,929 to continue remediation and restoration of Distal Zones 10 and 12. The period of performance would be through March 31, 2021. To date, \$10,650,852 has been awarded to the Tribe toward this effort. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205.*

Santa Clara Pueblo, North Railroad Avenue Plume: The Santa Clara Pueblo received an incremental award of \$1,536 as part of their Cooperative Agreement in May 2018, as it ensures our Tribal partner continues its meaningful involvement and management assistance activities at the North Railroad Avenue Plume Superfund Site. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*

Pueblo of Laguna, Jackpile Paguete Mine Superfund Site: The first incremental award, in the amount of \$38,315, was received by the Pueblo of Laguna on May 18, 2018. This incremental award allows the tribe to conduct management assistance activities and ensures the tribe's meaningful involvement in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study process. *Tony Talton, 214-665-7205*